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Rinehart

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(54) **MULTI-FUNCTIONAL MOUNT**

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B32B 3/06 (2006.01)
B44C 5/00 (2006.01)

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CPC .. **A63H 3/50** (2013.01); **B32B 3/06** (2013.01);
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 446/71, 72, 139, 268, 321, 325, 331;
248/519, 524; 434/295, 296
See application file for complete search history.

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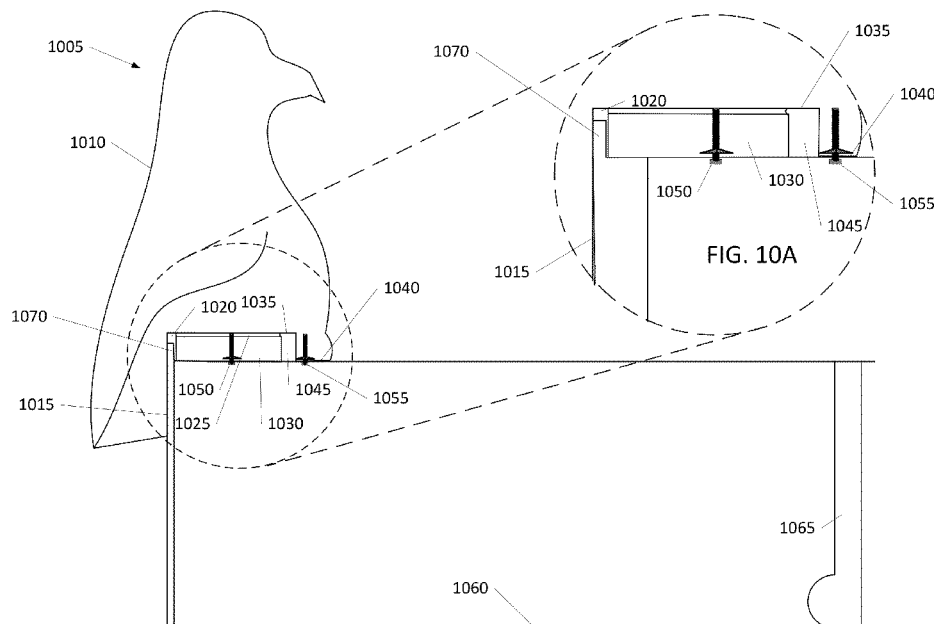
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An article of manufacture includes a figurine body and a first mounting pad at a bottom of the figurine body. The first mounting pad can include a first mounting mechanism. The article of manufacture can also include a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body. The raised portion is at least in part be adjacent to the first mounting pad. The raised portion is raised in relation to the first mounting pad. The raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

20 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



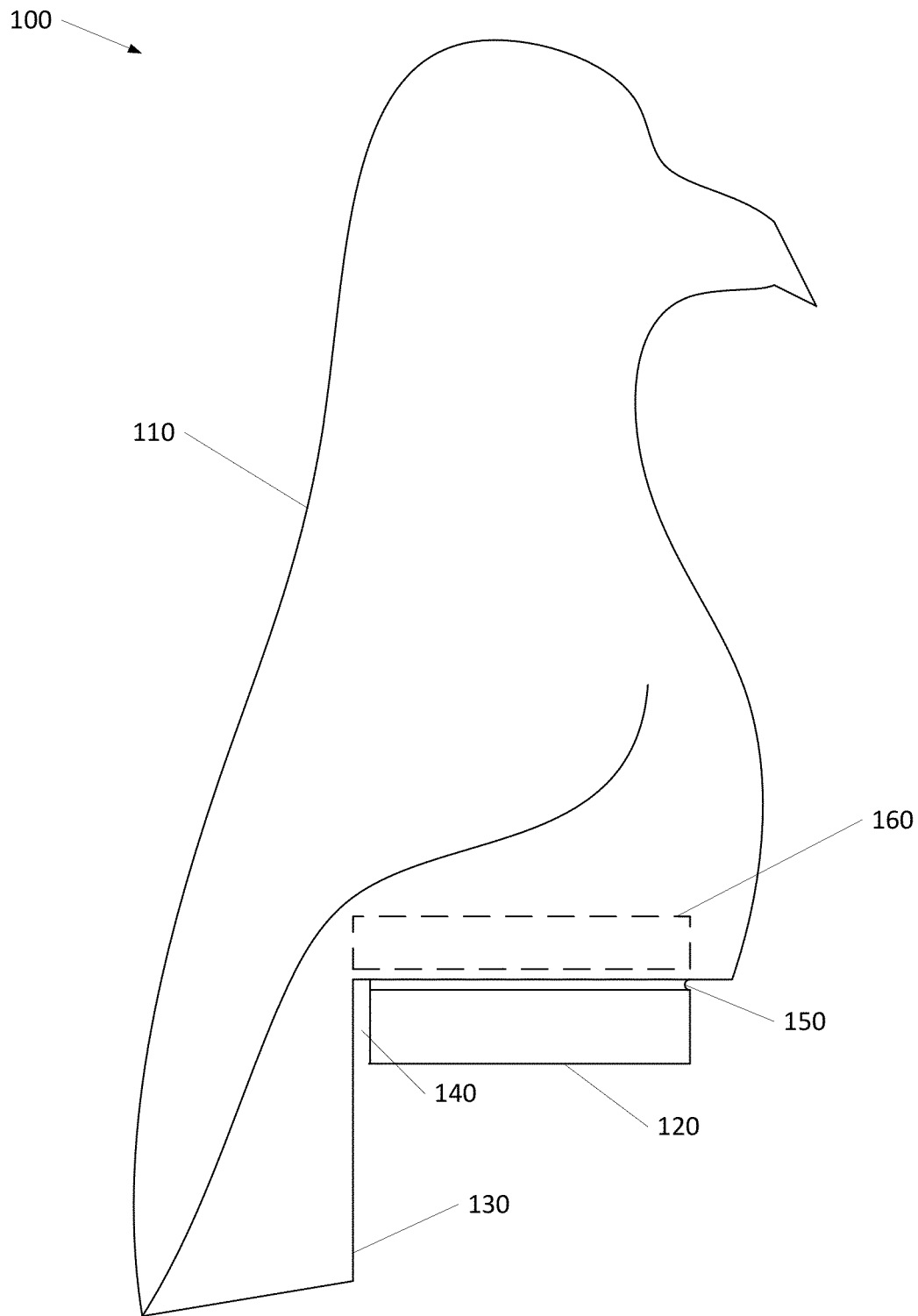


FIG. 1

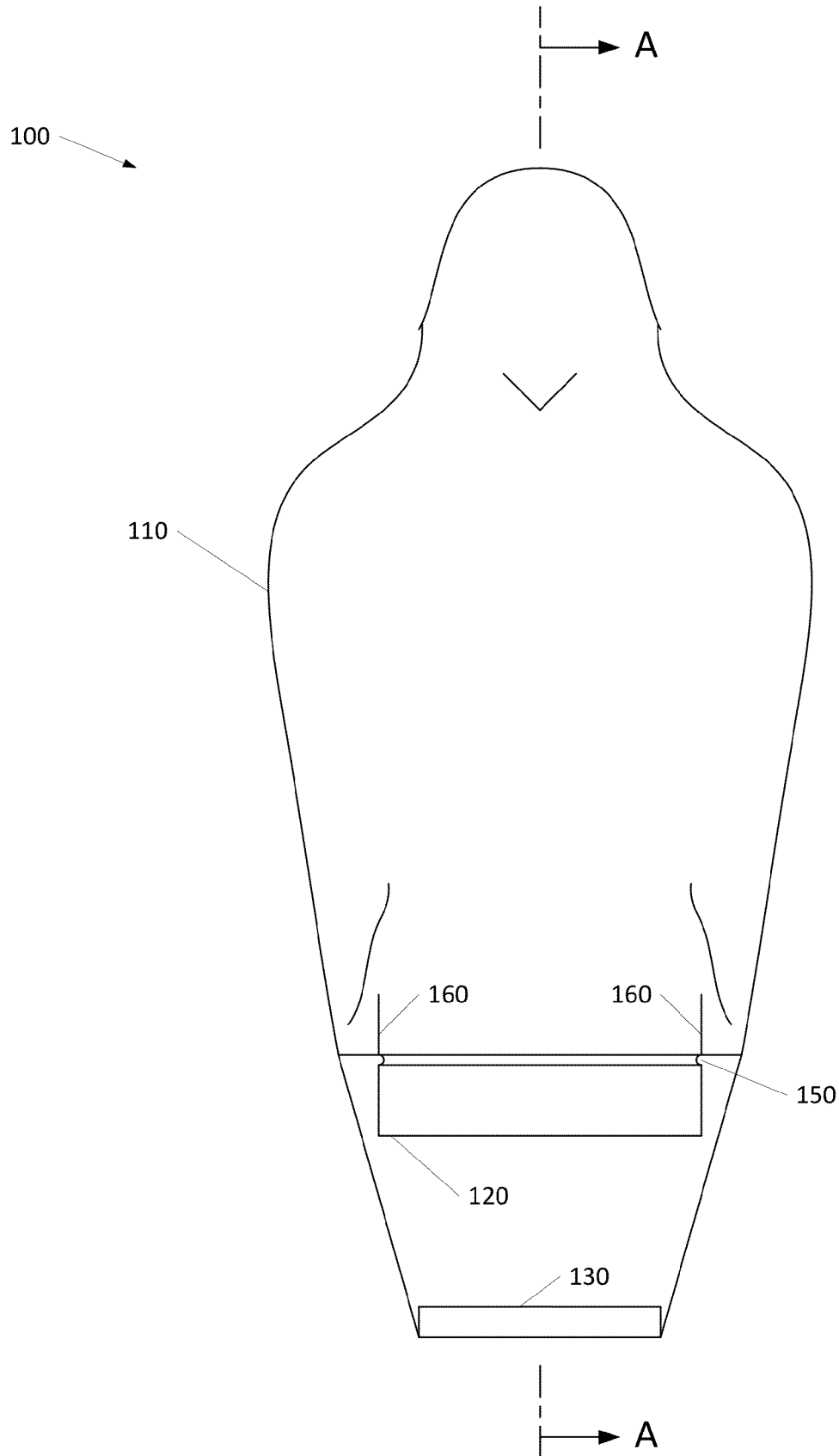


FIG. 2

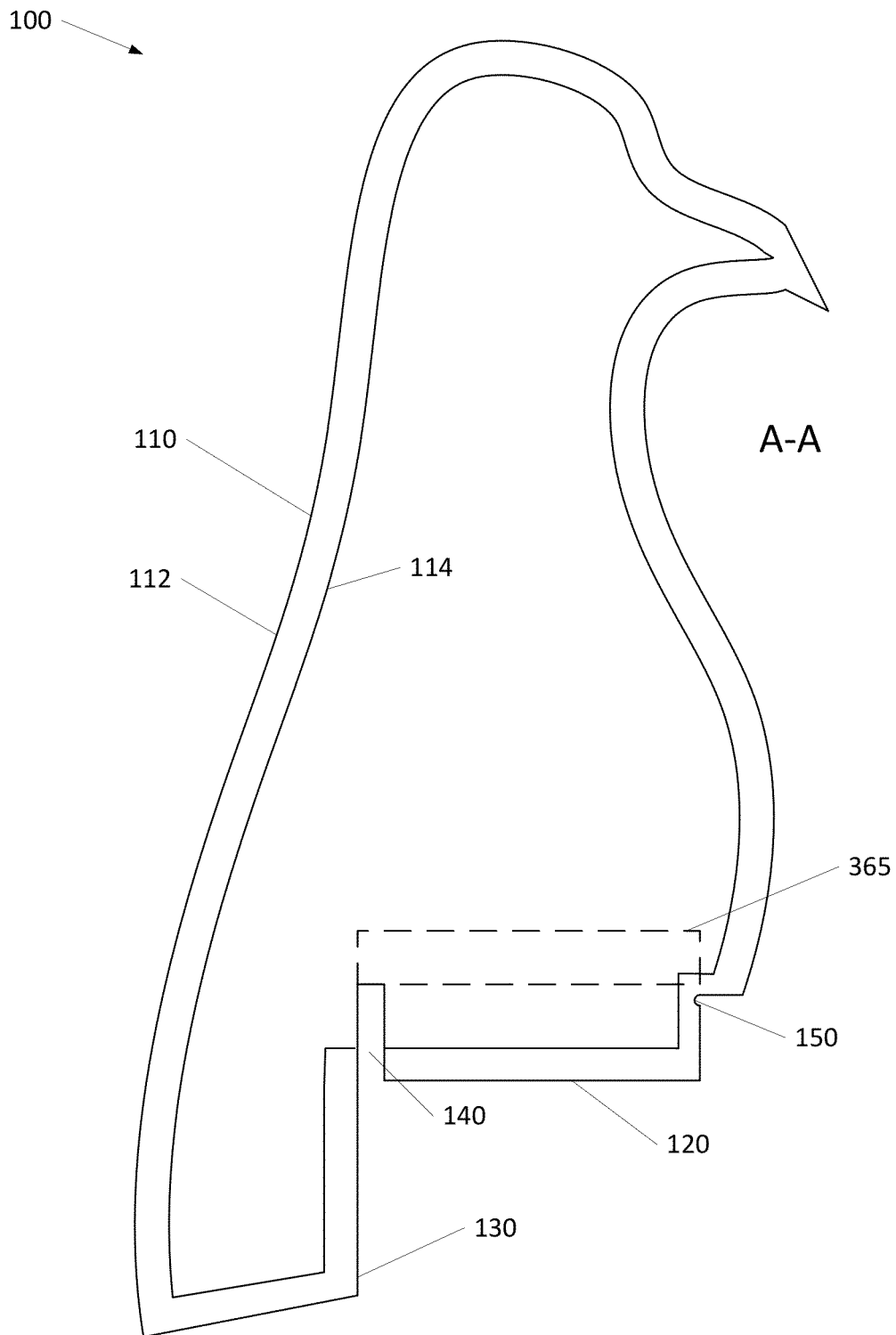
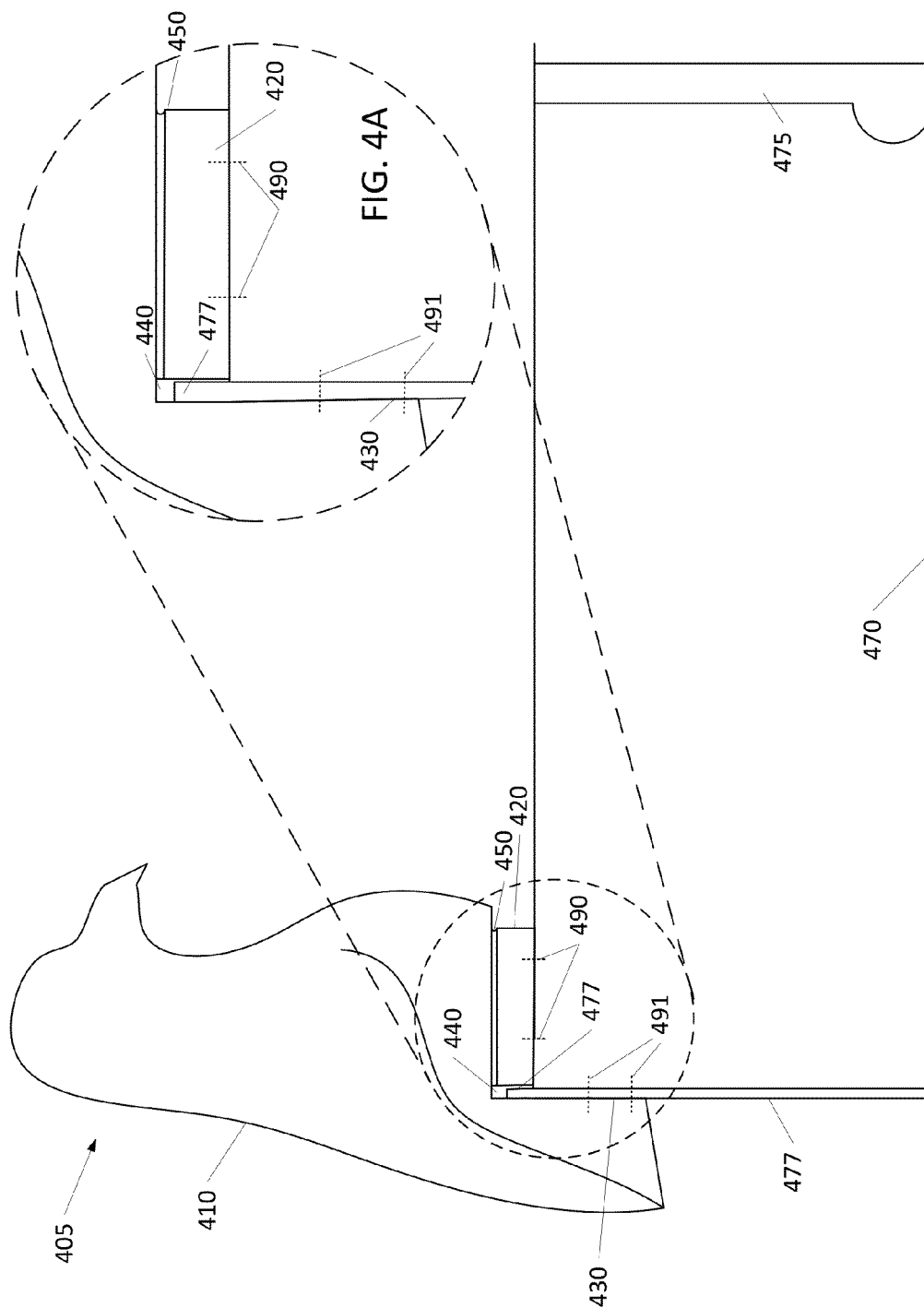


FIG. 3



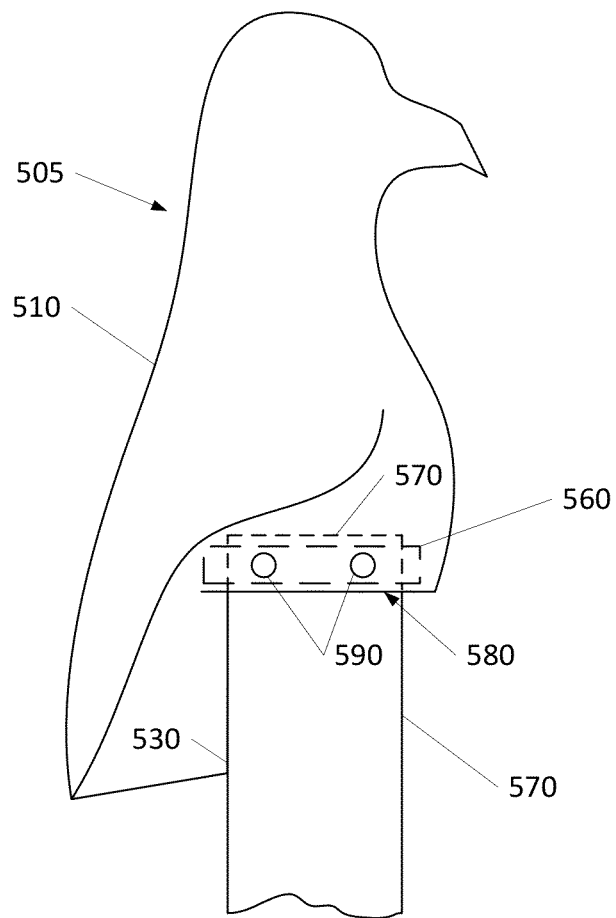


FIG. 5

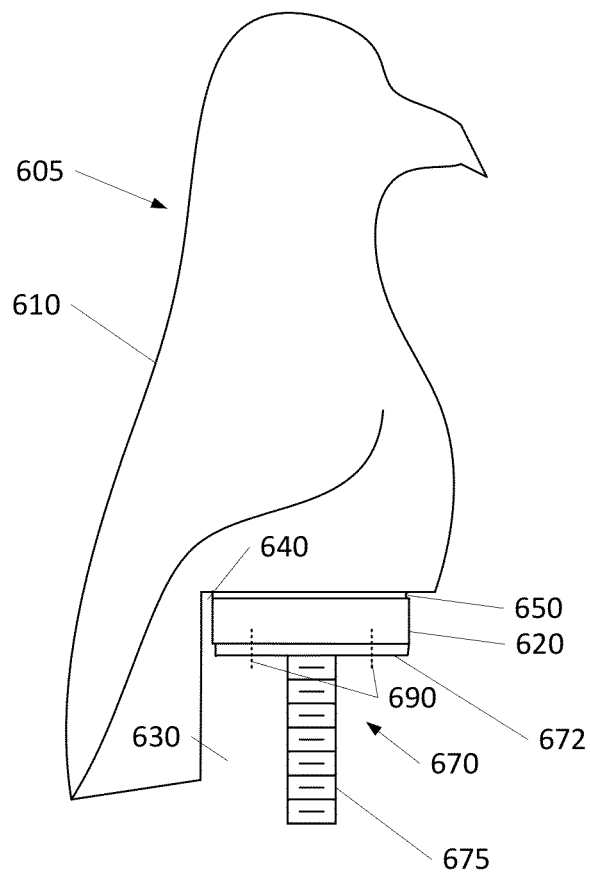


FIG. 6

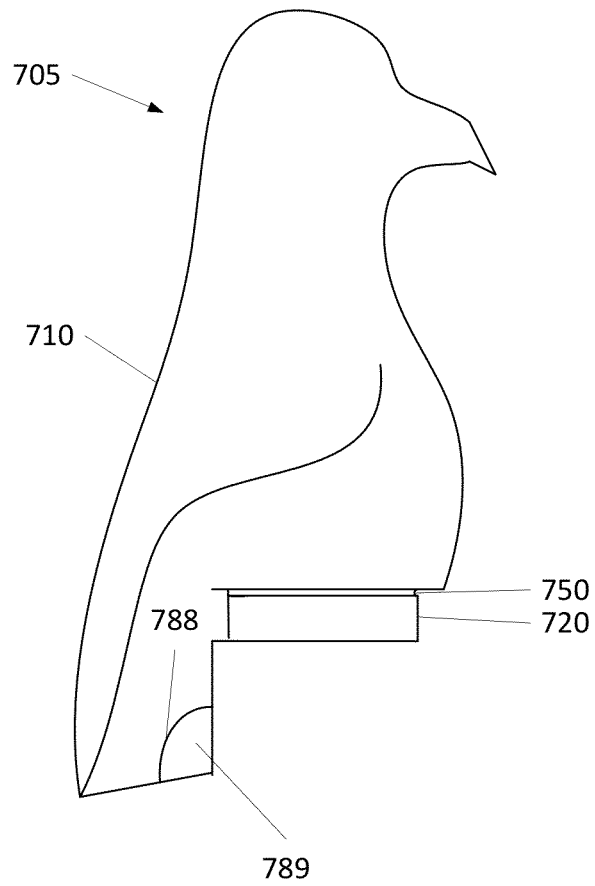


FIG. 7a

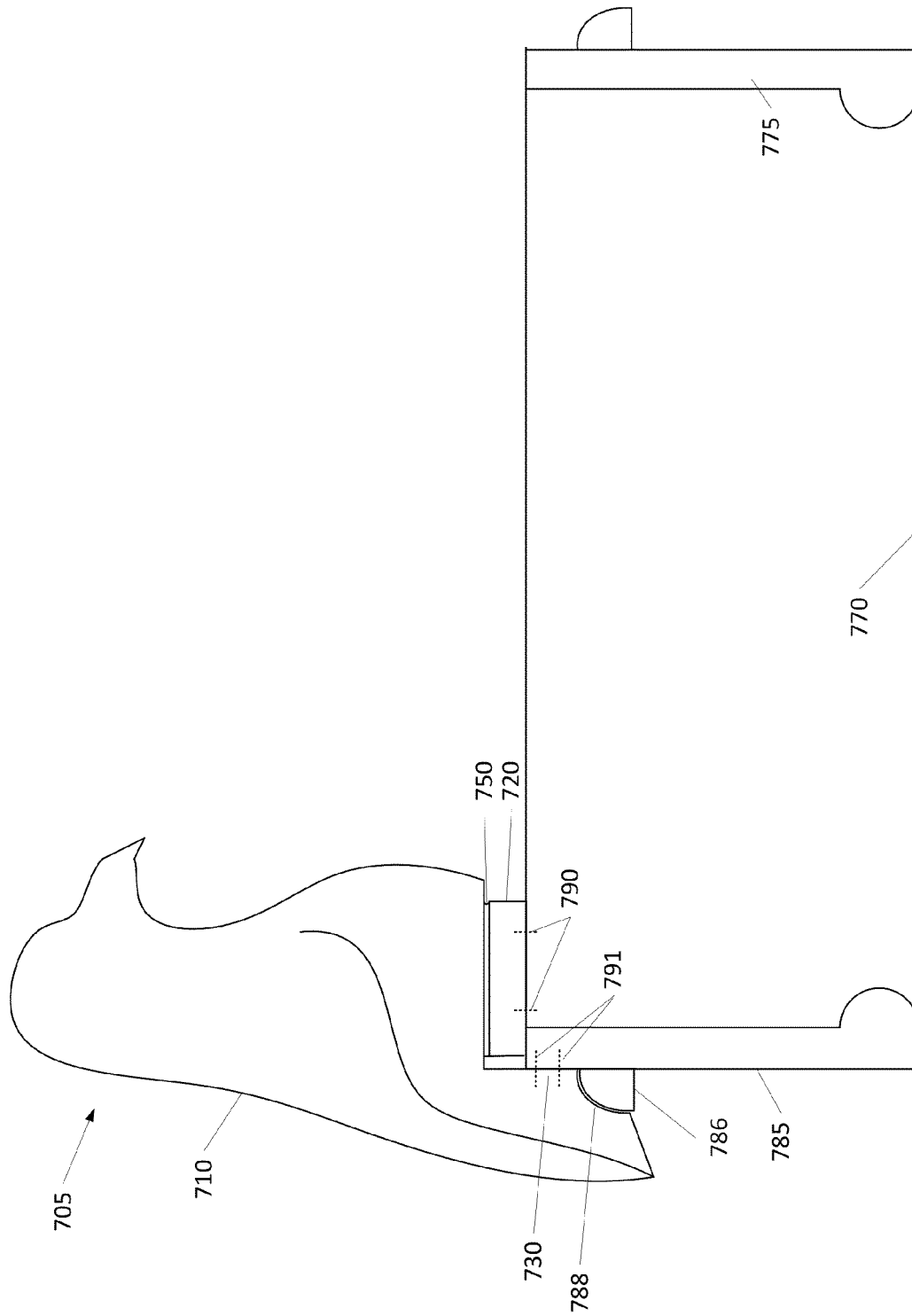


FIG. 7b

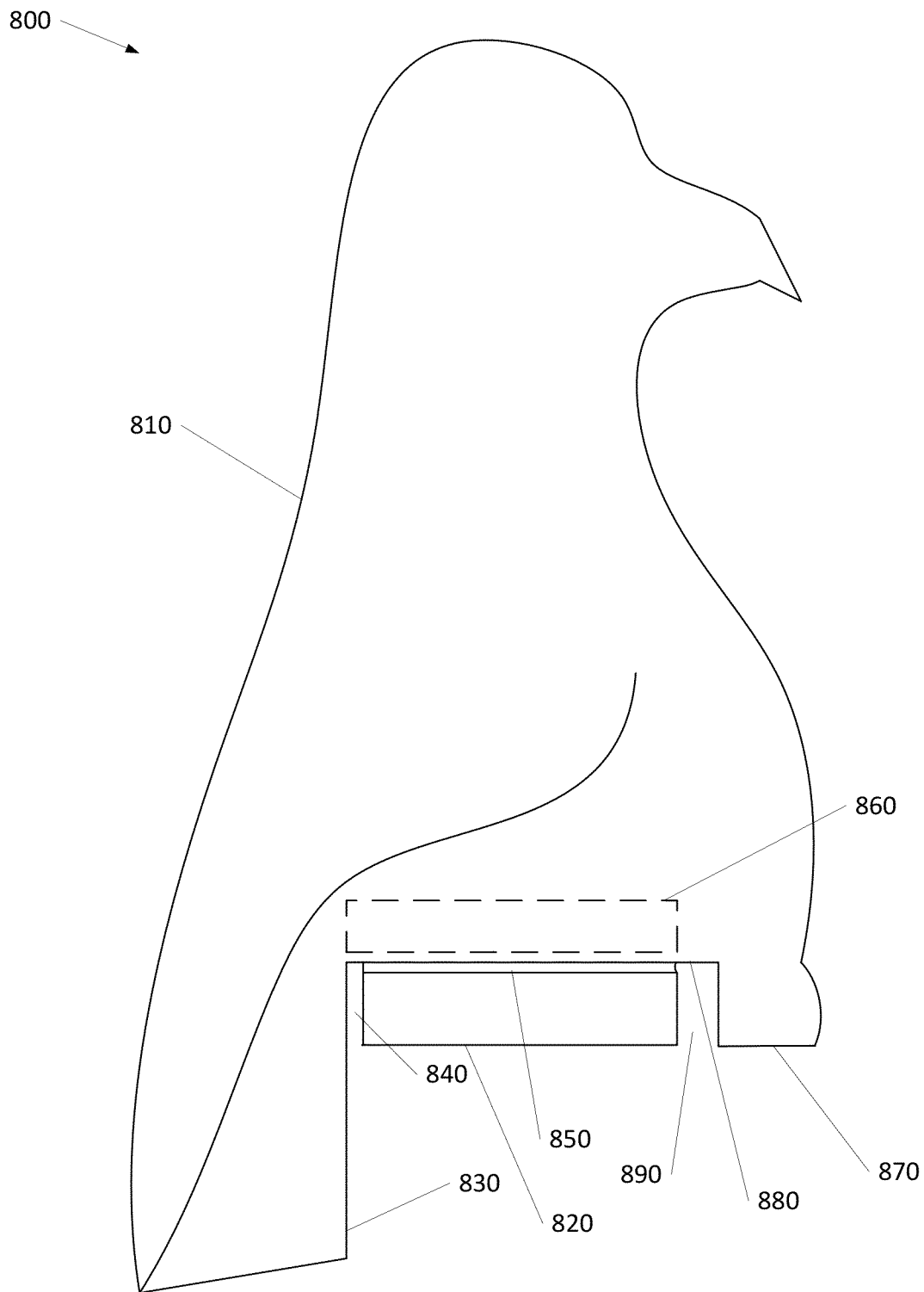


FIG. 8

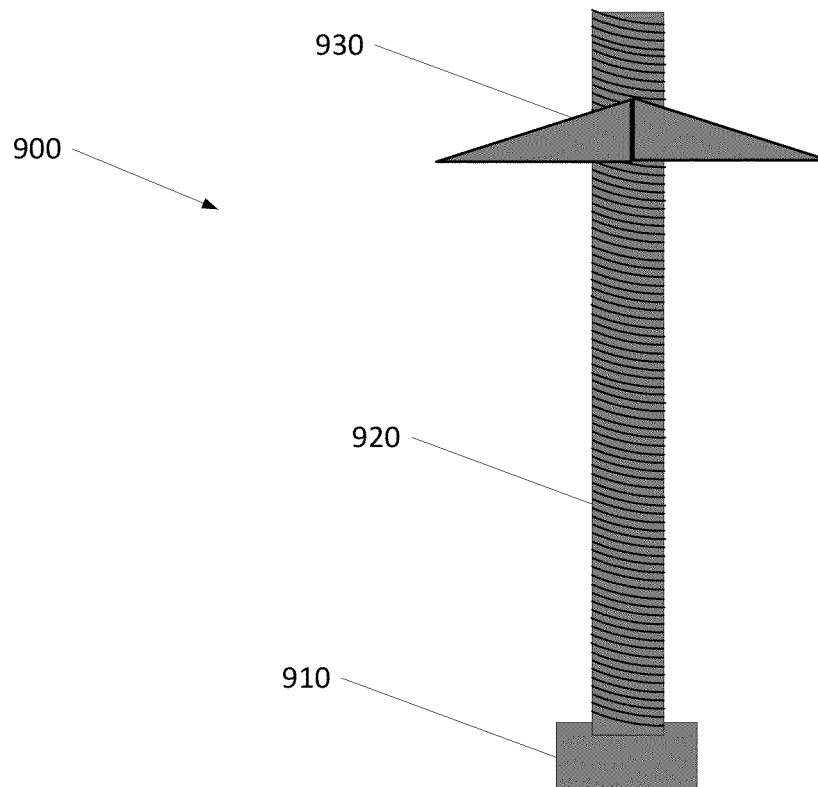
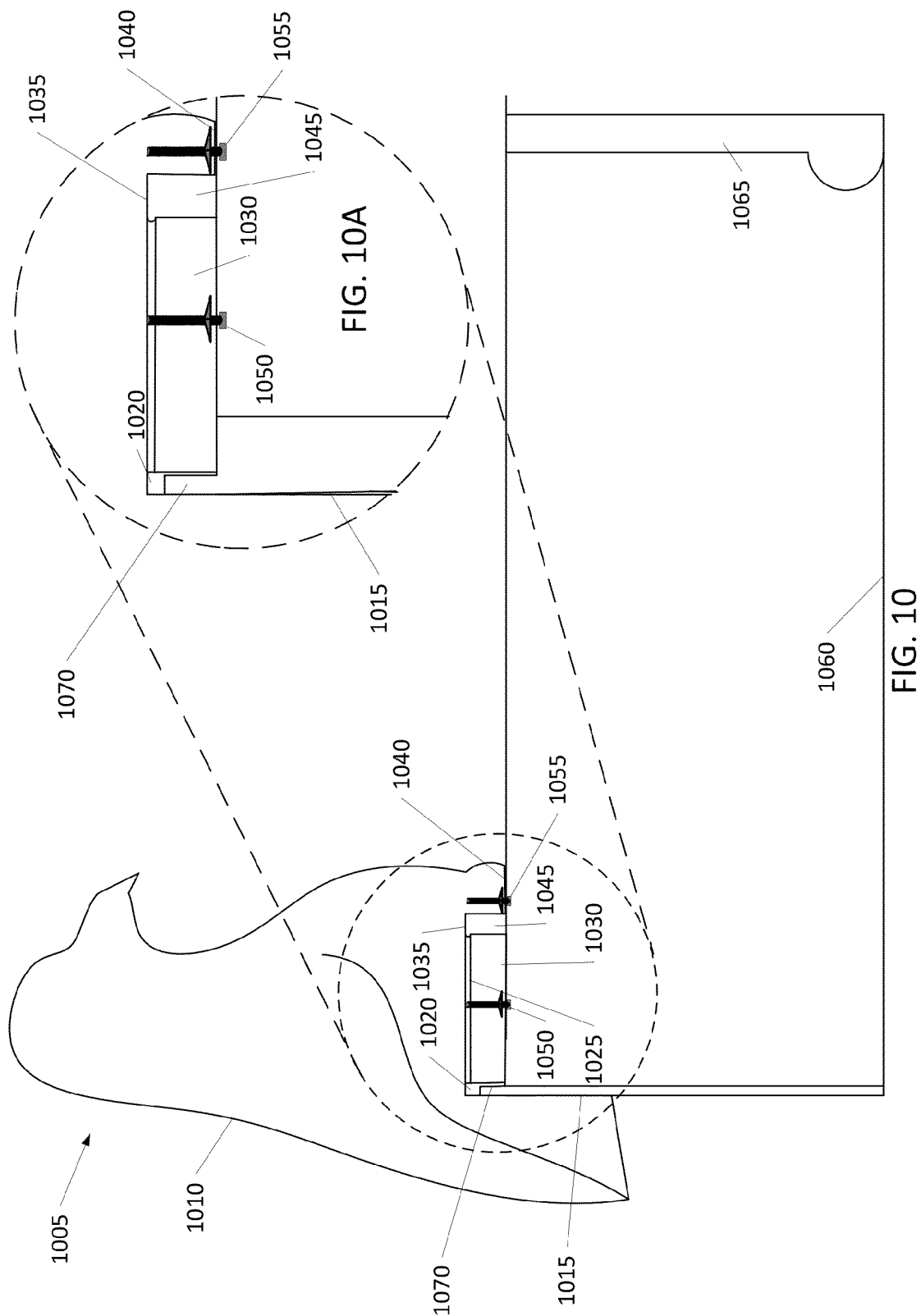


FIG. 9



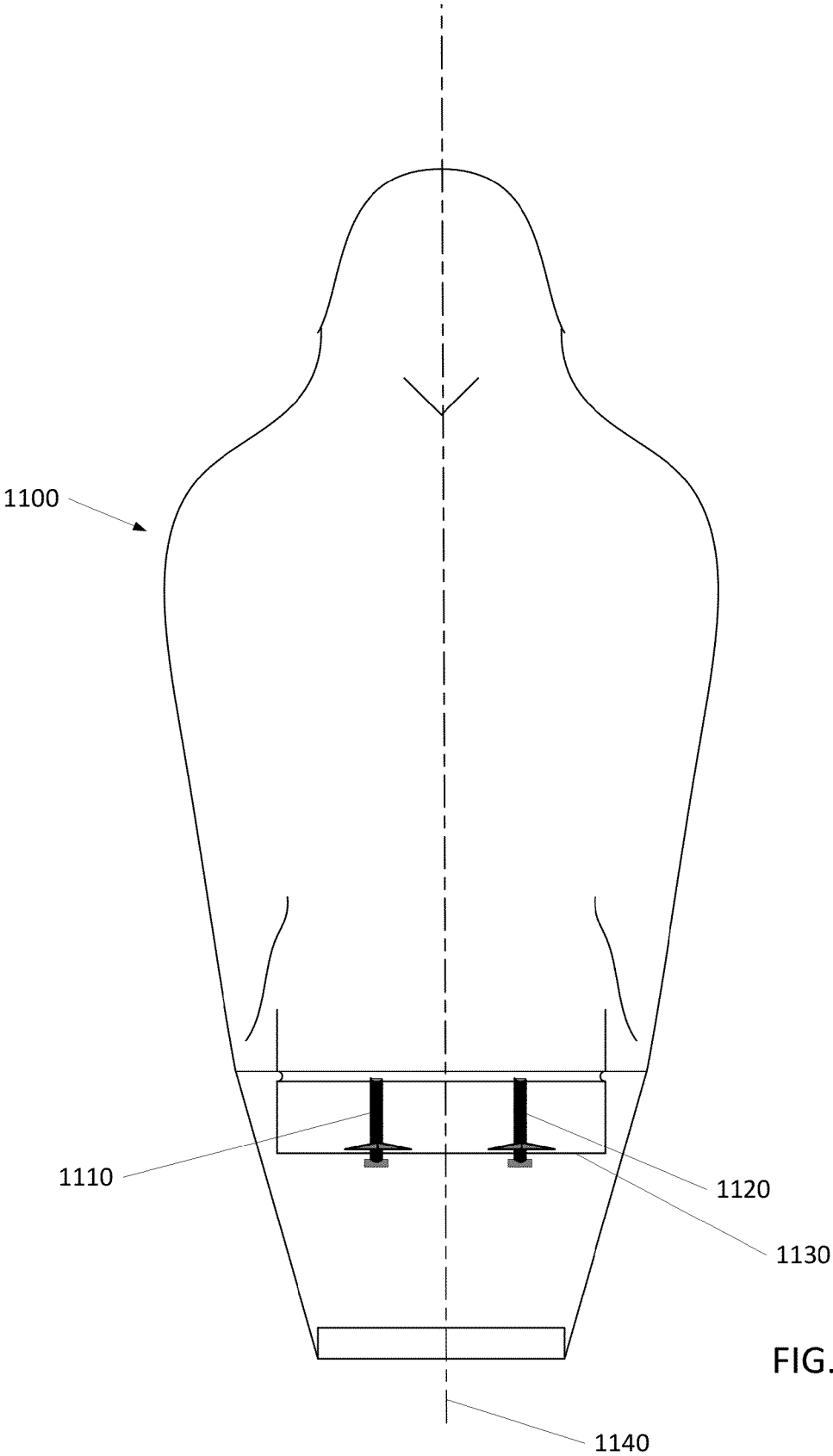


FIG. 11

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MULTI-FUNCTIONAL MOUNT**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. non-Provisional application Ser. No. 13/612,234 filed on Sep. 12, 2012, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

The present invention relates generally to the field of object mounts, and more particularly to the field of figurine mounts.

Many people enjoy having figurines placed in their yards, such as birds, fish, wild animals, domestic animals, decorations, symbols, sporting memorabilia, etc. For example, in some areas it is popular to have a realistic deer or bird figurine in one's yard to simulate living in the midst of wildlife. In addition, it is common to place decoys, such as owls or hawks, in and around barns and warehouses to deter certain birds, mice and other pests from entering the building.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment, an article of manufacture can include a figurine body and a first mounting pad at a bottom of the figurine body. The first mounting pad can include a first mounting mechanism. The article of manufacture can also include a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body. The raised portion can at least in part be adjacent to the first mounting pad. The raised portion can be raised in relation to the first mounting pad. The raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

In another embodiment, an assembly can include a figurine mounted to a mailbox. The figurine can include a figurine body, a first mounting pad at a bottom of the figurine body. The first mounting pad can include a first mounting mechanism. The assembly can also include a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body. The raised portion can at least in part be adjacent to the first mounting pad. The raised portion can be raised in relation to the first mounting pad. The raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

In another embodiment, a method can include forming a figurine body. The method can also include forming a first mounting pad on the figurine body. The first mounting pad can include a first mounting mechanism. The method can also include forming a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body. The raised portion can at least in part be adjacent to the first mounting pad. The raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other features of the present disclosure will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only several embodiments in accordance with the disclosure and are, therefore, not to be considered limiting of its scope, the disclosure will be described with additional specificity and detail through use of the accompanying drawings.

FIG. 1 is a side view of a figurine in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

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FIG. 2 is a front view of the figurine of FIG. 1 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a section view of the figurine of FIG. 1 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a side view of a figurine mounted on a mailbox in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 4A is a detail view of the mating area between the figurine and mailbox.

FIG. 5 is a side view of a figurine mounted on a post in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a side view of a figurine mounted on an adapter in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 7a is a side view of a figurine with a handle groove in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 7b is a side view of a figurine mounted on a mailbox with a rear door in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 8 is a side view of a figurine with a raised portion in the base in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a view of a toggle bolt in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a side view of a figurine with a raised portion in the base mounted on a mailbox in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 10A is a detailed view of the mating area between the figurine with a raised portion in the base and the mailbox in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a front view of a figurine with multiple fasteners used in the same mounting pad in accordance with an illustrative embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In the following detailed description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. In the drawings, similar symbols typically identify similar components, unless context dictates otherwise. The illustrative embodiments described in the detailed description, drawings, and claims are not meant to be limiting. Other embodiments may be utilized, and other changes may be made, without departing from the spirit or scope of the subject matter presented here. It will be readily understood that the aspects of the present disclosure, as generally described herein, and illustrated in the figures, can be arranged, substituted, combined, and designed in a wide variety of different configurations, all of which are explicitly contemplated and make part of this disclosure.

The present disclosure is directed to a figurine mount and method of mounting the same. Referring to FIG. 1, a side view of a figurine 100 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. The figurine 100 can include a figurine body 110, a first mounting pad 120, a second mounting pad 130, a guide groove 150, and a fastening area 160. The figurine body 110 can be any shape or form. FIG. 1 depicts the form of an eagle; however, any animal, shape, symbol, or form could be used. In particular, FIG. 1 depicts a side view of an eagle. In other embodiments, the figurine body 110 can be, for example, a crane, an owl, or a hawk shape. In other embodiments, the shape or form could be a holiday decoration, a football helmet, a baseball, a basketball, etc.

The figurine 100 can be made of plastic, reinforced plastic, fiberglass, composite, cementous material, metal, or any other material. The figurine 100 can be manufactured using various techniques such as injection molding, blow molding, stamping or casting. The figurine 100 can be monolithic or made of multiple pieces. For example, the first mounting pad 120 can be a separate piece.

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In one embodiment, the first mounting pad **120** can be a rectangular box shape. The first mounting pad **120** can be a mounting mechanism. The first mounting pad **120** can be hollow, as described further below. The inside base dimensions of the hollow of the first mounting pad **120** can be about the size of a post. For example, the inside base dimensions can be about 4 inches by 4 inches. The inside base dimensions can be other common post dimensions, common pipe dimensions, or any other dimensions. In one embodiment, the bottom of the first mounting pad **120** can be configured to attach to a flat surface. In one embodiment, the first mounting pad **120** can be used to secure the figurine **100** to an object, such as a mailbox.

The first mounting pad **120** can include a notch **140**. The notch **140** can extend into the hollow of the first mounting pad **120**. In one embodiment, the notch **140** does not extend through a side of the first mounting pad **120**. Alternatively, the notch **140** may extend through the side of the first mounting pad **120**. The notch **140** can be configured to receive a portion of another object to which the figurine **100** can be attached. In one embodiment, the notch **140** can be configured to receive the top, back end (or lip) of a mailbox. In another embodiment, the notch **140** can be configured to simultaneously adapt to multiple objects. For example, the notch **140**, which can be a single notch, can be configured to adapt to a mailbox or a newspaper box. In another embodiment, the notch **140** can be configured to adapt to a protrusion from a mounting surface. In one embodiment, the first mounting pad **120** can be located at or under the bottom of the figurine body **110**. For example, the first mounting pad **120** can be located at the feet of a perched bird, as depicted in FIG. 1.

The first mounting pad **120** can be separated from the figurine body **110** by a guide groove **150**. The guide groove **150** can be a shallow groove around at least part of the first mounting pad **120**. In one embodiment, the guide groove **150** can extend around three sides of the first mounting pad **120**. In an illustrative embodiment, the notch **140** extends up to the guide groove **150** as illustrated in FIG. 1. The guide groove **150** can be configured such that a person can easily remove the first mounting pad **120** from the figurine body **110**. For example, the guide groove **150** can be thinner in depth than surrounding areas of the first mounting pad **120** and the figurine body **110**. Hence, starting at a front of the mounting pad **120**, an individual can cut through the guide groove **150** until the individual reaches the notch **140**, thereby separating the first mounting pad **120** from the figurine body **110**. In addition, the guide groove **150** can provide a track for the person to cut through, thereby improving the accuracy of the cut. In an illustrative embodiment, the notch **140** can be formed such that the notch **140** meets the guide groove **150** on the sides of the first mounting pad **120** and is adjacent to the rear of the first mounting pad **120**. As such, when a person cuts through the guide groove **150** formed on the front and sides of the first mounting pad **120**, the first mounting pad **120** can break away from the figurine body **110** (e.g., because the entire rear side of the first mounting pad **120** is adjacent to the notch **140**).

The second mounting pad **130** can be integrated into the figurine body **110**. The second mounting pad **130** can be configured to enhance the stability of a mounted figurine **100**. The second mounting pad **130** can be a mounting mechanism. The location of the second mounting pad **130** can be chosen such that the figurine body **110** maintains a natural appearance. In one embodiment, the second mounting pad **130** can be substantially orthogonal (e.g., perpendicular) to the first mounting pad **120**. Substantially orthogonal can mean plus or minus 10 degrees from orthogonal. In one embodiment, the second mounting pad **130** can be a flat area located 1 inch to

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7 inches away from the first mounting pad **120**. The second mounting pad **130** can be configured to adapt to a post. In another embodiment, the second mounting pad **130** can be configured to simultaneously adapt to multiple objects. For example, second mounting pad **130** can be configured to adapt to a post or pole. In one embodiment, the second mounting pad **130** can be located on an appendage of the figurine body **110**. For example, the second mounting pad **130** can be located at the tail of a perched bird, as depicted in FIG. 1. In one embodiment, the second mounting pad **130** can be used to secure the figurine **100** to an object, such as the rear of a mailbox.

The fastening area **160** can be configured to provide an attachment between a mounting object, such as a post, and the figurine body **110**. The inside of the figurine body **110** and the fastening area **160** can be a mounting mechanism. In one embodiment, when the first mounting pad **120** is removed and a post is inserted into the base of the figurine body **110**, the fastening area **160** can lie tight against the post. A person can fasten the figurine body **110** to the post, for example, using fasteners through the fastening area **160** or adhesive between the fastening area **160** and the post. In another embodiment, the fastening area **160** can be configured to lie tight against a pole or any other mounting object. In another embodiment, the fastening area **160** can be located at the front, back or any other area of the figurine body **110**.

Referring to FIG. 2, a front view of the figurine **100** of FIG. 1 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine **100** can include the figurine body **110**, the first mounting pad **120**, the second mounting pad **130**, the notch **140** (not visible in FIG. 2), the guide groove **150**, and the fastening area **160**. The figurine body **110** can be any shape or form. FIG. 2 depicts the form of an eagle; however, any animal, shape, or form could be used.

In one embodiment, the first mounting pad **120** can be a rectangular box shape. The notch **140** of the first mounting pad **120** can extend into the hollow of the first mounting pad **120** as described with reference to FIG. 1. The notch **140** can be configured to adapt to the shape of another object to which the figurine **100** can be attached. In one embodiment, the notch **140** can be configured to adapt to the top, back end of a mailbox. As depicted in FIG. 2, the first mounting pad **120** can be located at the feet of a perched bird.

The guide groove **150** can be a shallow groove around at least part of the first mounting pad **120**. In one embodiment, the guide groove **150** can extend around three sides of the first mounting pad **120**. FIG. 2 depicts the guide groove **150** extending along the front side of the first mounting pad **120** and continuing to the right and left sides of the first mounting pad **120**.

The second mounting pad **130** can be integrated into the figurine body **110**. The second mounting pad **130** can be substantially rectangular; however, the second mounting pad **130** can be any shape. As depicted in FIG. 2, the second mounting pad **130** can be a flat surface located at the tail of a perched bird.

The fastening area **160** can be configured to provide an attachment between a mounting object, such as a post, and the figurine body **110**. In one embodiment, when the first mounting pad **120** is removed and a post is inserted into the base of the figurine body **110**, the fastening area **160** can lie tight against the post. The fastening area **160** can generally be disposed in a vertical fashion depending on the shape of the figurine body **110**. As depicted in FIG. 2, the fastening area **160** can be located on a right and left side of the figurine body **110**. Hence, when a post is inserted into the base of the figurine body **110**, the figurine body **110** can be fastened to the

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post using the fastening area **160** on both the left and right sides of the figurine body **110**.

Referring to FIG. 3, a section view of the figurine **100** of FIG. 1 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine **100** can include the figurine body **110**, the first mounting pad **120**, the second mounting pad **130**, the notch **140**, the guide groove **150**, and the fastening area **160**. The figurine body **110** can be any shape or form. FIG. 3 depicts the form of an eagle; however, any animal, shape, or form could be used.

FIG. 3 depicts an outside surface **112** and an inside surface **114** of the figurine **100**. As noted above, the figurine **100** can be made of plastic, reinforced plastic, fiberglass, composite, cementous material, metal, or any other material. The figurine **100** can be monolithic or made of multiple pieces. FIG. 3 depicts a monolithic figurine **100**. The thickness between the outside surface **112** and the inside surface **114** can be any thickness. In one embodiment, the thickness between the outside surface **112** and the inside surface **114** can be in a range between about 0.01 inches to 0.5 inches; however, the thickness can be any thickness.

In addition, the thickness between the outside surface **112** and the inside surface **114** can vary. For example, the thickness between the guide groove **150** and the inside surface **114** can be less than an overall thickness between the outside surface **112** and the inside surface **114**, in order to ease removal of the first mounting pad **120**.

The inside surface **114** can include an inside fastening area **365**. The inside fastening area **365** can be configured to provide an attachment surface between a mounting object, such as a post, and the figurine body **110**. In one embodiment, when the first mounting pad **120** is removed and a post is inserted into the base of the figurine body **110**, the inside fastening area **365** can lie tight against the post. A person can fasten the figurine body **110** to the post, for example, using fasteners through the inside fastening area **365** or adhesive between the inside fastening area **365** and the post. In another embodiment, the inside fastening area **365** can be configured to lie tight against a pole or any other mounting object. In another embodiment, the inside fastening area **365** can be located at the front, back or any other area of the figurine body **110**.

The guide groove **150** can be a shallow groove around at least part of the first mounting pad **120**. In one embodiment, the guide groove **150** can extend around three sides of the first mounting pad **120**, and two sides of the guide groove **150** can meet with the notch **140**. FIG. 3 depicts a cross-section of the guide groove **150** at the front of the first mounting pad **120** (the two sides of the guide groove **150** that meet with the notch **140** are not visible in the cross section view).

The second mounting pad **130** can be integrated into the figurine body **110**. As depicted in FIG. 3, a mounting surface of the second mounting pad **130** can be substantially vertical.

Advantageously, the figurine **100** can be easily configured to adapt to multiple mounting situations. Advantageously, the first mounting pad **120** can be separated from the figurine body **110** by cutting through guide groove **150** up to the notch **140**, so that a post can be inserted into figurine **100**. Advantageously, the fastening area **365** can be used to secure the figurine body **110** to the post. Advantageously, the first mounting pad **120** and the second mounting pad **130** can be used to mount the figurine **100** to an object.

Referring to FIG. 4, a side view of a figurine **405** mounted on a mailbox **470** in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. FIG. 4A shows a detail view of the mating area between the figurine **405** and mailbox **470**, using the same element numbers. As described above, the figurine **405** can

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include a figurine body **410**, a first mounting pad **420**, a second mounting pad **430**, a notch **440**, and a guide groove **450**. In FIG. 4, the first mounting pad **420** remains attached to the figurine body **410**. The figurine **405** can sit on the top of the mailbox **470**, such that the first mounting pad **420** is located on the top of the back of the mailbox **470** and the second mounting pad **430** is located against the back of the mailbox **470**.

The mailbox **470** can be a standard mailbox with an arched top. The mailbox **470** can include a door **475** and a lip **477**. The lip **477** can be the seam where the top of the mailbox **470** and the back of the mailbox **470** are seamed together. For example, in a steel mailbox, a seaming machine will roll and press the top and back of the mailbox together. The lip **477** can extend beyond the body of the mailbox **470**. Alternatively, the lip **477** can be an aesthetic detail added to the mailbox **470**.

The notch **440** can be configured to receive the lip **477** to sit in so that the first mounting pad **420** can sit flush on the top of the mailbox **470**. Thus, in one embodiment, the notch **440** is shaped large enough to allow for the top portion of the lip **477**. Further, the notch **440** can enable the second mounting pad **430** to contact the back of the mailbox **470**.

The figurine **405** can be attached to the mailbox **470** using fasteners. For example, one or more fasteners **490** can be placed through the inside of the mailbox **470** into the first mounting pad **420**. In addition, one or more fasteners **491** can be placed through the inside of the mailbox **470** into the second mounting pad **430**. The fasteners **490**, **491** can be screws, rivets, or any other fastener. Alternatively, the figurine **405** can be attached to the mailbox **470** using adhesive.

Advantageously, the figurine **405** can be easily configured to adapt to multiple mounting situations. Advantageously, the first mounting pad **420** and the second mounting pad **430** can be used to mount the figurine **405** to the mailbox **470**.

Referring to FIG. 5, a side view of a figurine **505** mounted on a post **570** in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine **505** can include a figurine body **510**, a second mounting pad **530**, and a fastening area **560**. Notably, in FIG. 5, the first mounting pad has been removed from the figurine body **510** as described above. In FIG. 5, the first mounting pad was cut from the figurine body **510** at the guide groove to the notch, thereby creating an opening **580** at the bottom of the figurine body **510**. In at least one dimension, the opening **580** is about the same size as a cross-section of the post **570**. In one embodiment, the cross-section of the post **570** can be about 4 inches by 4 inches, or 3.5 inches by 3.5 inches.

The figurine **505** can sit on the top of the post **570**, such that the top of the post **570** is inserted through the opening **580** into at least a portion of the figurine body **510**. The second mounting pad **530** can rest against the side of the post **570**. In one embodiment, the post **570** can be inserted into the figurine body **510** until the figurine body **510** rests on the top of the post **570**.

The figurine **505** can be attached to the post **570** using fasteners. For example, one or more fasteners **590** can be placed through the fastening area **560** (on both sides) into the post **570**. The fasteners **590** can be screws, rivets, or any other fastener. Alternatively, the figurine **505** can be attached to the post **570** using adhesive.

Advantageously, the figurine **505** can be easily configured to adapt to multiple mounting situations. Advantageously, the first mounting pad **520** can be separated from the figurine body **510** by cutting through a guide groove, so that the post **570** can be inserted into figurine **505**. Advantageously, the fastening area **560** can be used to mount the figurine **505** to an object.

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Referring to FIG. 6, a side view of a figurine 605 mounted on an adapter 670 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine 605 can include a figurine body 610, a first mounting pad 620, a second mounting pad 630, a notch 640, a guide groove 650, and a fastening area 660. The first mounting pad 620 remains attached to the figurine body 610. The adapter 670 can be attached to the bottom of the second mounting pad 630 so that the figurine 605 mounted on the adapter 670 can be mounted on other objects. For example, the adapter 670 can be used to mount the figurine 605 on a fence rail or beam.

The adapter 670 can include a plate 672 and a threaded stud 675. In one embodiment, the threaded stud 675 can be welded to or pressed into the plate 672. The plate 672 can include, for example, four holes near the corners for securing the adapter 670 to the figurine 605. The adapter 670 can be configured such that the threaded stud 675 can be used to secure the figurine 605 to an object through a hole. For example, the threaded stud 675 can be inserted through a hole drilled through a fence rail and secured using a washer and nut.

The plate 672 of the adapter 670 can be attached to the figurine 605 using fasteners 690. For example, one or more fasteners 690 can be placed through the plate 672 of the adapter 670 into the first mounting pad 620. The fasteners 690 can be screws, rivets, or any other fastener. Alternatively, the figurine 605 can be attached to the adapter 670 using adhesive.

Advantageously, the figurine 605 can be easily configured to adapt to multiple mounting situations. Advantageously, the first mounting pad 620 can be used to mount the figurine 605 to an object using an adapter 670.

Referring to FIG. 7a, a side view of a figurine 705 with a handle groove 788 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine 705 can include a figurine body 710, a first mounting pad 720, and a first guide groove 750. In an illustrative embodiment, figurine 705 can also include a second guide groove 788. Similar to the first guide groove 750, a removable section 789 of the figurine body 710 can be separated from the body 710 along the second guide groove 788. The second guide groove 788 can be configured such that a person can easily remove the removable section 789 of figurine 705 outlined by the second guide groove 788. The second guide groove 788 can be a shallow groove around at least part of the figurine body. The second guide groove 788 can be thinner in depth than surrounding areas of the figurine body 710. Hence, starting at a front (or bottom) of the removable section 789, an individual can cut through the second guide groove 788 until the individual reaches the bottom (or front) of removable section 789, thereby separating the removable section 789 from the figurine body 710. In addition, the second guide groove 788 can provide a track for the person to cut through, thereby improving the accuracy of the cut. Alternatively, the second guide groove 788 can allow the removable section 789 to break away and be removed by hand without the use of a saw, utility knife, or other tool.

Referring to FIG. 7b, a side view of a figurine 705 mounted on a mailbox 770 with a rear door 785 in accordance with an illustrative embodiment is shown. As described above, the figurine 705 can include a figurine body 710, a first mounting pad 720, a second mounting pad 730, a first guide groove 750, and fasteners 790 and 791. In FIG. 7b, the mounting pad 720 remains attached to the figurine body 710. The figurine 705 can sit on the top of the mailbox 770, such that the first mounting pad 720 is located on the top of the back of the mailbox 770.

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The mailbox 770 can be a mailbox with an arched top or a substantially flat top. The mailbox 770 can include a front door 775 and a rear door 785. The rear door 785 can include a rear handle 786. As described above, figurine 710 can include a second guide groove 788. In FIG. 7b, the removable section 789 has been removed from the figurine body 710. The second guide groove 788 can further be configured to allow the second mounting pad 730 to rest against the rear door 785 (i.e., the rear door handle 786 occupies at least a portion of the space created by removing the removable section 789 (not shown) of the figurine 705 outlined by second guide groove 788). The second guide groove 788 can be further configured such that the figurine body 710 is supported at least in part by the rear door 785 resting along the second guide groove 788. In another embodiment, the removable section 789 (not shown) of figurine 705 outlined by the second guide groove 788 may include at least a portion of the second mounting pad 730 such that the second mounting pad 730 is at least partially removed from the figurine body 710. In an alternative embodiment, the second guide groove 788 may be large enough to allow the rear door 785 to operate if the removable section 789 (not shown) of figurine 705 is removed (i.e., swing down without interference from figurine 705).

Referring to FIG. 8, a side view of a figurine 800 with a raised portion 880 in the base is shown in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. As described above, the figurine 800 can include a figurine body 810, a first mounting pad 820, a second mounting pad 830, a notch 840, a guide groove 850, and a fastening area 860. In FIG. 8, the first mounting pad 820 remains attached to the figurine body 810. The figurine 800 can sit on the top of a structure such as a mailbox, such that the first mounting pad 820 is located on the top of the back of the mailbox and the second mounting pad 830 is located against the back of the mailbox.

The figurine 800 also includes a third mounting pad 870. In one embodiment, the third mounting pad 870 can be a rectangular box shape. The third mounting pad 870 can be a mounting mechanism. The third mounting pad 870 can be hollow. The inside base dimensions of the hollow of the third mounting pad 870 are smaller than the hollow of the first mounting pad 820. The inside base dimensions can be other dimensions in other embodiments. In one embodiment, the bottom of the third mounting pad 870 can be configured to attach to a flat surface. In one embodiment, the third mounting pad 870 can be used to secure the figurine 800 to an object, such as a mailbox.

The third mounting pad 870 is separated from the first mounting pad 820 by a space 890. In this embodiment, the space 890 extends the entire width of the figurine 800. Thus, there is no material visible in the space 890 in the side view shown in FIG. 8. In other embodiments, the space 890 may not extend the entire width of the figurine 800. In this embodiment, the side view of the space 890 is rectangular. In other embodiments, the space 890 may be any various shape that extends into the figurine 800.

The space 890 causes there to be a raised portion 880 in between the first mounting pad 820 and the third mounting pad 870. Advantageously, the raised portion 880 can add structural stability to the figurine 800. The added structural stability may prevent torsion or flexibility of the figurine 800. The structural stability may also make the figurine more durable. In this embodiment, the raised portion is at least in part adjacent to both the first mounting pad 820 and the third mounting pad 870. If the figurine 800 is attached to a structure or container, the first mounting pad 820, the second mounting pad 830, and/or the third mounting pad 870 may be used as a

mounting mechanism. In some embodiments, a fastener may be used to attach the figurine **800** to the structure or container. Advantageously, if a fastener is used at the first mounting pad **820** or the third mounting pad **870**, parts of the fastener may be in close proximity to or come into contact with the raised portion **880** (as will be discussed below). In some embodiments, if certain fasteners are used (e.g., a toggle bolt), part of the fastener may come into contact with the raised portion **880** and assist in attaching the figurine **800** to a container or structure such as a mailbox. For example, with the toggle bolt, a wings portion of the toggle bolt may be inserted from the inside of a mailbox and up into the figurine **800** through a hole in the figurine **800**. A bolt portion of the toggle bolt may then be turned to tighten the toggle bolt and secure the figurine to the mailbox. This method of attaching the figurine to the mailbox can be accomplished without an installer having access to the inside of the figurine but for inserting the toggle bolt through a hole in the first mounting pad **820**, the second mounting pad **830**, and/or the third mounting pad **870**. Advantageously, if a toggle bolt is used in the first mounting pad **820** or the third mounting pad **870** in close proximity to the raised portion **880**, the wings portion of the toggle bolt will come into contact with the raised portion **880** and prevent the wings portion from spinning repeatedly while the bolt is being tightened. For example, the raised portion **880** may prevent the wings portion of the toggle bolt from rotating 360 degrees. In other embodiments, the raised portion **880** may be variously shaped or located to prevent the wings portion from rotating more than other amounts. The other amounts may be any amount, but some examples may be 320 degrees, 300 degrees, 270 degrees, 225 degrees, 200 degrees, 180 degrees, 135 degrees, 90 degrees, etc. Regardless of the amount the raised portion **880** is designed to prevent the fastener from rotating, one purpose of the raised portion **880** is to offer support to the fastener and assist in securing the figurine **800** to a structure. In other words, the raised portion **880** is configured to offer support to the fastener and make it easier to attach the figurine **800** to a structure. This configuration may allow a fastener such as a toggle bolt to be attached more securely than if the raised portion **880** was not present.

In an alternative embodiment, the raised portion **880** may be variously located and shaped. For example, a raised portion **880** may exist solely in the second mounting pad **830** and would be at least in part adjacent to the second mounting pad **830**. In another example, the raised portion **880** may be located in such a way as to create a space and a fourth mounting pad near the second mounting pad **830**. In another embodiment, the raised portion **880** may exist solely in the first mounting pad **820** and would be at least in part adjacent to the first mounting pad **820**. In such an embodiment, the third mounting pad **870** may not be present. In a further embodiment, the raised portion **880** may exist solely in the third mounting pad **870** and would be at least in part adjacent to the third mounting pad **870**.

In other alternative embodiments, the raised portion **880** may be present in association with the space **890**. In varying embodiments of shape or location of the raised portion **880**, the space **890** may also have varying shapes and locations. In another embodiment, the raised portion **880** may be accomplished without a space **890**. For example, the raised portion **880** may be a piece of solid material that is located in the hollow of the figurine **800** at or adjacent to one or more of the first mounting pad **820**, the second mounting pad **830**, and the third mounting pad **870**.

Referring to FIG. 9, a view of a toggle bolt **900** is shown in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. The toggle bolt **900** includes a bolt portion that has a head portion **910** and a

thread portion **920**. The toggle bolt **900** also includes a wings portion **930**. The wings portion **930** can be configured to rotate around the thread portion **920**. The wings portion **930** can further be configured so that if the wings portion **930** is rotated a particular direction (e.g., clockwise), the wings portion **930** will move along the thread portion **920** toward the head portion **910** of the toggle bolt **910**. The wings portion **930** can be further configured so that if the wings portion **930** is rotated a second direction (e.g., counterclockwise), the wings portion **930** will move along the thread portion **920** away from the head portion **910** of the toggle bolt **910**.

The wings portion **930** of the toggle bolt **900** can be further configured to fold such that the diameter of the wings portion is only slightly greater than that of the thread portion **920** of the toggle bolt **900** and smaller than the diameter of the head portion **910** of the toggle bolt **900**. This allows the wings portion **930** of the toggle bolt **900** to be inserted into a hole, even when there is not access to the other side of the hole. The wings portion **930** is also spring loaded such that when pressure is applied to the wings portion **930**, the wings portion **930** folds. However, when there is no longer a force applied to the wings portion **930**, the wings portion **930** returns to the wider configuration as shown in FIG. 9. In this way, the wings portion **930** can be inserted into a hole smaller than the diameter of the head portion **910** of the toggle bolt **910**. After being inserted, the wings portion **930** can return to the position shown in FIG. 9, which allows the head portion **910** to be turned to tighten the toggle bolt **900**.

Referring to FIG. 10, a side view of a figurine **1005** with a raised portion **1035** in the base mounted on a mailbox **1060** is shown in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. FIG. 10A shows a detailed view of the mating area between the figurine **1005** with a raised portion **1035** in the base and the mailbox **1060** in accordance with an illustrative embodiment, using the same element numbers. As described above, the figurine **1005** can include a figurine body **1010**, a first mounting pad **1030**, a second mounting pad **1015**, a third mounting pad **1040**, a notch **1020**, a guide groove **1025**, a space **1045**, and a raised portion **1035**. In FIG. 10, the first mounting pad **1030** remains attached to the figurine body **1010**. The figurine **1005** can sit on the top of a mailbox **1060**, such that the first mounting pad **1030** and the third mounting pad **1040** are located on the top of the back of the mailbox **1060** and the second mounting pad **1015** is located against the back of the mailbox **1060**.

The mailbox **1060** can be a standard mailbox with an arched top. The mailbox **1060** can include a door **1065** and a lip **1070**. The lip **1070** can be the seam where the top of the mailbox **1060** and the back of the mailbox are connected together. For example, in a steel mailbox, a seaming machine will roll and press the top and back of the mailbox together. The lip **1070** can extend beyond the body of the mailbox **1060**. Alternatively, the lip **1070** can be an aesthetic detail added to the mailbox **1060**.

The notch **1020** can be configured to receive the lip **1070** to sit in so that the first mounting pad **1030** and the third mounting pad **1040** can sit flush on the top of the mailbox **1060**. Thus, in one embodiment, the notch **1020** is shaped large enough to allow for the top portion of the lip **1070**. Further, the notch **1020** can enable the second mounting pad **1015** to contact the back of the mailbox **1060**.

The figurine **1005** can be attached to the mailbox **1060** using fasteners. For example, fasteners **1050** and **1055** can be placed through the inside of the mailbox **1060** into the first mounting pad **1030** and the third mounting pad **1040**. In an alternative embodiment, one or more fasteners may be placed through the inside of the mailbox **1060** into the second mount-

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ing pad **1015**. The fasteners **1050** and **1055** can be screws, rivets, or any other fastener. In this embodiment, the fasteners **1050** and **1055** are toggle bolts such as the one described above with respect to FIG. 9. Alternatively, the figurine **1005** can be attached to the mailbox **1060** using adhesive.

Advantageously, the figurine **1005** can be easily configured to adapt to multiple mounting situations. Advantageously, the first mounting pad **1030**, the second mounting pad **1015**, and the third mounting pad **1040** can be used to mount the figurine **1005** to the mailbox **1060**.

In the embodiment in FIG. 10 and FIG. 10A, toggle bolts as shown in FIG. 9 are used as fasteners **1050** and **1055**. In this embodiment, the wings portion of fastener **1055** comes into contact with the raised portion **1035** of the figurine **1005**. As a result, the wings portion of the fastener **1055** cannot rotate in a particular direction once the wings portion comes into contact with the raised portion **1035**. This allows the fastener **1055** to be tightened without the wings portion of the fastener **1055** spinning and preventing the fastener from being completely tightened. The wings portion and at least part of the thread portion of the fasteners **1050** and **1055** are inside the figurine **1005**. The head portion of the fasteners **1050** and **1055** are located inside the mailbox **1060**.

In other embodiments, the fastener **1050** may also come into contact with the raised portion **1035** or a different raised portion. Other embodiments may also have varying numbers of fasteners for attaching the figurine **1005** to the mailbox **1060**. For example, in one embodiment multiple fasteners may be used in the same mounting pad, as discussed below with respect to FIG. 11.

Referring to FIG. 11, a front view of a figurine **1100** with multiple fasteners **1110** and **1120** used in the same mounting pad **1130** is shown in accordance with an illustrative embodiment. In this embodiment, the figurine **1100** may be attached to a mailbox or other structure or container (not pictured). Here, the fasteners **1110** and **1120** are toggle bolts such as the one described above with respect to FIG. 9. In this embodiment, the fasteners **1110** and **1120** are on opposite sides of a centerline **1140** of the figurine **1100**. Advantageously, when attaching the figurine **1100** to a mailbox or other structure or container, the fasteners **1110** and **1120** can be tightened in such a manner that the figurine **1100** is attached in a desirable manner. For example, it may be desirable to straighten the figurine **1100** during installation such that centerline **1140** of the figurine **1100** is orthogonal to the ground or the base of a mailbox. In other words, the orientation of the figurine **1100** may be adjusted by tightening or loosening the fasteners **1110** and **1120** as needed to achieve the desired orientation. Further, the locations of fasteners **1110** and **1120** may more securely attach the figurine **1100** to the mailbox or other structure or container.

In alternative embodiments, more or less fasteners may be used and such fasteners may be used in varying locations. For example, in addition to the fasteners shown in FIG. 11, other fasteners may be used in other mounting pad locations such as the mounting pads shown in FIG. 8.

The foregoing description of illustrative embodiments has been presented for purposes of illustration and of description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or limiting with respect to the precise form disclosed, and modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teachings or may be acquired from practice of the disclosed embodiments. It is intended that the scope of the invention be defined by the claims appended hereto and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An article of manufacture comprising:
a figurine body;

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a first mounting pad at a bottom of the figurine body, wherein the first mounting pad comprises a first mounting mechanism; and

a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body, wherein:

the raised portion is at least in part adjacent to the first mounting pad;

the raised portion is raised in relation to the first mounting pad; and

the raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

2. The article of manufacture of claim 1, wherein the first mounting pad is configured to attach to a first surface of a structure with the first fastener.

3. The article of manufacture of claim 2, wherein the first fastener is a toggle bolt and wherein the toggle bolt comprises:

a bolt portion; and

a wings portion,

wherein:

the bolt portion comprises a head portion and a thread portion; and

the wings portion is configured to be in a folded position or an extended position, and is further configured to screw onto the thread portion of the bolt.

4. The article of manufacture of claim 3, wherein the first mounting pad is further configured to attach to the first surface of structure by accommodating the wings portion and at least part of the thread portion of the toggle bolt inside the figurine body, and further wherein the head portion remains outside the figurine body.

5. The article of manufacture of claim 4, wherein the wings portion is the portion of the first fastener prevented from turning 360 degrees.

6. The article of manufacture of claim 5, further comprising a second mounting pad at the bottom of the figurine body, wherein the second mounting pad comprises a second mounting mechanism.

7. The article of manufacture of claim 6, wherein the raised portion is at least in part adjacent to the second mounting pad and wherein the raised portion is raised in relation to the second mounting pad.

8. The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein the first mounting pad and the second mounting pad are located on opposite sides of the raised portion.

9. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the second mounting pad is configured to attach to the first surface of the structure with a second fastener.

10. The article of manufacture of claim 9, further comprising a third mounting pad on the figurine body, wherein the third mounting pad is orthogonal to the bottom of the first mounting pad, and wherein the third mounting pad is configured to attach to a second surface of the structure with a third fastener.

11. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the first mounting pad is further configured to attach to the first surface of the structure with a third fastener.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein the first fastener and the third fastener are configured to adjust an orientation of the figurine body when the first mounting pad is attached to the first surface of the structure by the first fastener and the third fastener.

13. The article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein the orientation of the figurine body is adjusted when one of the first fastener or the third fastener is loosened or tightened.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 9, wherein the figurine body and the second mounting pad are separated by

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a guide groove, and wherein upon removal of the second mounting pad from the figurine body at the guide groove, an opening is exposed to form a third mounting mechanism.

15. The article of manufacture of claim **14**, wherein the opening has a cross-section configured to receive a post.

16. The article of manufacture of claim **15**, further comprising a fastening area located on a side of the figurine body, wherein the fastening area is configured to lie against the post, wherein the post is inserted into the figurine body.

17. The article of manufacture of claim **9**, wherein the second mounting pad comprises a notch located in a bottom of the second mounting pad.

18. The article of manufacture of claim **17**, wherein the notch is configured to fit over a lip of a mailbox, wherein the mailbox is the structure.

19. An assembly comprising:

a mailbox; and

a figurine mounted to the mailbox, wherein the figurine comprises:

a figurine body;

a first mounting pad at a bottom of the figurine body, wherein the first mounting pad comprises a first mounting mechanism; and

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a raised portion at the bottom of the figurine body, wherein:

the raised portion is at least in part adjacent to the first mounting pad;

the raised portion is raised in relation to the first mounting pad; and

the raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

20. A method comprising:

forming a figurine body; and

forming a first mounting pad on the figurine body, wherein the first mounting pad comprises a first mounting mechanism; and

forming a raised portion at a bottom of the figurine body, wherein:

the raised portion is at least in part adjacent to the first mounting pad;

the raised portion is raised in relation to the first mounting pad; and

the raised portion is configured to prevent a portion of a first fastener from rotating 360 degrees.

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